

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 17347 061306Z
ACTION NEA-07

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7804

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 17347

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OREP, IN
SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT OF US SENATE DELEGATION TO INDIA

1. MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ON DECEMBER 6 PROVIDED EMBASSY WITH TEXT OF LETTER FROM SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BYRD AND MINORITY LEADER BAKER WHICH WAS DELIVERED TO INDIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ON DECEMBER 5. LETTER PROPOSES VISIT TO NEW DELHI OF US SENATE DELEGATION JANUARY 5 THROUGH 10. TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE ON BEHALF OF THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES, WE WISH TO ACCEPT YOUR KIND INVITATION OF AUGUST 30, 1977, FOR A DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO VISIT INDIA. THE SENATE DELEGATION WILL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS: (SENATORS BYRD, HOLLINGS, CANNON, WILLIAMS, STEVENSON, MOYNIHAN, BAKER, PEARSON, GARN, LEXALT, STEVENS AND RIBICOFF).

3. WE PRESENTLY PLAN TO BE IN NEW DELHI JANUARY 5 THROUGH JANUARY 10, 1978. HOWEVER, WE WILL MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH YOUR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO FINALIZE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS TRIP.

4. ON BEHALF OF THE SENATE, WE THANK YOU FOR THIS
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INVITATION AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO AN ENLIGHTENING AND PRODUCTIVE VISIT WITH MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN PARLIAMENT.
END QUOTE.

5. ACCORDING TO MEA JOINT SECRETARY (AMERICAS) ASRANI, SUBSEQUENT MESSAGE OF INDIAN EMBASSY ADVISED THAT SENATORS HAD TOLD EMBASSY THEY MIGHT DECIDE TO INCLUDE

A VISIT TO SOME CITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST DURING THIS TRIP, AND WOULD KEEP THE EMBASSY INFORMED OF ANY CHANGES IN THE SCHEDULED DATES FOR INDIA SUCH STOPS MIGHT ENTAIL.

6. ASRANI TOLD POLCOUNSELOR HE HAD ALREADY SPOKEN WITH PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE ABOUT THE SENATOR'S VISIT. PM'S OFFICE HAD TOLD HIM THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S SCHEDULE MADE IT DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE CALLS ON HIM DURING THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 6 THROUGH 11 AND THAT PM WOULD BE OUT OF TOWN ON JANUARY 9, 10 AND 14.

7. COMMENT: PM'S PROBLEMS WITH JANUARY 6 THROUGH 11 PRESUMABLY CAUSED BY VISIT OF UK PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN SCHEDULED FOR THOSE DATES.
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